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March 11, 2015

Larry Gottesman
National Freedom of Information Officer
Environmental Protection Agency
National Headquarters
Environmental Protection Agency - (2822T)
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

FOIA REQUEST

Fee benefit requested

Fee waiver requested

Expedited processing requested

Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the federal Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, I request access to and copies of all EPA responses to any requests for technical assistance received between Nov. 12, 2014 and March 11, 2015 from members of Congress regarding reform of the Toxic Substances Control Act.

As a representative of the news media I am only required to pay for the direct cost of duplication after the first 100 pages. Through this request, I am gathering information on Toxic Substances Control Act legislative reform efforts that is of current interest to the public because Members of Congress are actively working on draft bills to reform or replace the existing Toxic Substances Control Act, which manages use of industrial chemicals throughout the U.S. With the introduction of a bill in the Senate March 10, debate on its merits will soon begin. Senator Vitter has indicated that the deadlines and fee language included in his bill stem from EPA advice. This information is being sought on behalf of *Inside EPA* for dissemination to the general public.

Please waive any applicable fees. Release of the information is in the public interest because it will contribute significantly to public understanding of government operations and activities. As a journalist, any information that I receive as a result of this request will be published in a publicly-accessible website and newsletter. The information is in the public interest as Congress begins again to debate reforming the statute that governs how industrial chemicals are used in this country.

If my request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act. I will also expect you to release all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material. I, of course, reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information or to deny a waiver of fees.

As I am making this request as a journalist and this information is of timely value, I would appreciate your communicating with me by telephone, rather than by mail, if you have questions regarding this request.

Please provide expedited processing of this request which concerns a matter of urgency. As a journalist, I am

primarily engaged in disseminating information. The public has an urgent need for information about Toxic Substances Control Act policy because Congress will begin to debate the issue following a March 18 hearing in the Senate Environment & Public Works Committee. I certify that my statements concerning the need for expedited processing are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I look forward to your reply within 20 business days, as the statute requires.

Thank you for your assistance.

Respectfully,

Maria Hegstad